

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending, of which claims Claims 1 and 4 are independent, claims 11-18 have been added, and claims 3, 5-7, and 9 are amended to eliminate multiple dependency.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is in order, and an early and favorable first action on the merits is respectfully requested. However, in the event of any outstanding issues, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below in an effort to expedite prosecution.

To the extent necessary, Applicants hereby request any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any prescribed fee not otherwise provided for, including application processing, extension, and extra claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Benoit Castel, Reg. No. 35,041
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

BC/sj

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

☒ - a verified English translation of foreign priority document